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(19) **United States**(12) **Patent Application Publication****Bachfischer et al.**(10) **Pub. No.: US 2009/0327977 A1**(43) **Pub. Date: Dec. 31, 2009**(54) **INTERACTIVE CONTROL DEVICE AND METHOD FOR OPERATING THE INTERACTIVE CONTROL DEVICE**

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G06F 3/033 (2006.01)(52) **U.S. Cl.** **715/863; 345/156**(57) **ABSTRACT**

An interactive control device includes a display device, and a method is for operating the interactive control device. The method includes: displaying graphical information on the display device; receiving sensor information; activating a control action if on the basis of the sensor information it is ascertained that a body part of a user is located within an activation region that is spatially defined relative to a display region of a control element on the display device with which the control action is associated; the received sensor information including user information that is evaluated prior to an activation of the control action in order to ascertain a control intention for the at least one control element; and the information represented on the display device being adapted as a function of the ascertained control intention such that the at least one control element is represented in a manner optimized for the activation of the control action associated with the control element. The control device may be arranged as a component of a motor vehicle console so as to be able to implement the control method.

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